WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A wireless communication system including a
plurality of terminals, comprising:

a first terminal for sending a signal including beacon
information having an identifier that identifies the type of
certificate of privilege; and

a second terminal for sending an authentication request
to the first terminal in response to the signal sent from
the first terminal by providing the type of certificate of
privilege which matches the identifier.

2. A wireless communication system including a
plurality of terminals, comprising:

a first terminal for sending a signal including beacoń
information indicating an operation mode of the first
terminal; and

a second terminal for sending, when the operation mode
of the first terminal coincides with an operation mode of
the second terminal, an authentication request to the first
terminal in response to the signal sent from the first
terminal by providing a certificate of privilege indicating
a right concerning the operation mode of the second terminal.

3. A terminal comprising:

a certificate of privilege table for storing a certificate of privilege indicating an access right of the terminal;

receiving means for receiving a signal including beacon information having an identifier that identifies the type of certificate of privilege from a first terminal; and

authentication request means for sending an authentication request to the first terminal by providing the certificate of privilege stored in the certificate of privilege table that matches the identifier contained in the signal received by the receiving means.

4. A terminal according to claim 3, wherein the identifier is a terminal identifier of a terminal that has issued the certificate of privilege.

5. A terminal according to claim 3, further comprising:

a certificate-of-privilege issuing terminal list table for storing a public key certificate of a terminal that has issued the certificate of privilege;

authentication-request receiving means for receiving a second authentication request from the first terminal in response to the authentication request sent from the authentication request means; and

verification means for verifying a second certificate of privilege contained in the second authentication request received by the authentication-request receiving means by using a public key contained in the public key certificate stored in the certificate-of-privilege issuing terminal list table.

6. A terminal according to claim 5, wherein:

the identifier is a terminal identifier of a terminal that has issued the certificate of privilege; and

the certificate-of privilege issuing terminal list table stores the terminal identifier of the terminal that has issued the certificate of privilege, the public key certificate of the terminal that has issued the certificate of privilege, and a storage location of the certificate of privilege in the certificate of privilege table in association with each other.

7. A terminal comprising:

a certificate of privilege table for storing a certificate of privilege indicating an access right of the terminal; and

sending means for sending a first terminal a signal including beacon information having an identifier that identifies the type of certificate of privilege stored in

the certificate of privilege table.

8. A terminal according to claim 7, wherein the identifier is a terminal identifier of a terminal that has issued the certificate of privilege.

9. A terminal comprising:

a certificate of privilege table for storing a plurality of certificates of privilege indicating an access right of the terminal;

selection means for providing an instruction to select one of the plurality of certificates of privilege stored in the certificate of privilege table; and

sending means for sending a first terminal a signal including beacon information having an identifier that identifies the type of the certificate of privilege selected by the selection means.

10. A terminal according to claim 9, wherein the identifier is a terminal identifier of a terminal that has issued the certificate of privilege.

11. A terminal comprising:

a certificate of privilege table for storing a certificate of privilege indicating an access right of the

terminal;

a status table for storing an operation mode of the terminal;

receiving means for receiving a signal including beacon information having an operation mode of a first terminal from the first terminal; and

authentication request means for sending, when the operation mode of the terminal and the operation mode of the first terminal coincides with each other, an authentication request to the first terminal by providing the certificate of privilege stored in the certificate of privilege table.

12. A terminal according to claim 11, further comprising:

a certificate-of-privilege issuing terminal list table for storing a public key certificate of a terminal that has issued the certificate of privilege;

authentication-request receiving means for receiving a second authentication request from the first terminal in response to the authentication request sent from the authentication request means;

verification means for verifying a second certificate of privilege contained in the second authentication request received by the authentication-request receiving means by using a public key contained in the public key certificate

stored in the certificate-of-privilege issuing terminal list table; and

operation-mode checking means for determining, after the second certificate of privilege is successfully verified by the verification means, that the second authentication request is rejected when the operation mode of the first terminal is not permitted by an operable mode contained in the second certificate of privilege.

13. A terminal according to claim 12, wherein:

the identifier is a terminal identifier of the terminal that has issued the certificate of privilege; and

the certificate-of-privilege issuing terminal list table stores the terminal identifier of the terminal that has issued the certificate of privilege, the public key certificate of the terminal that has issued the certificate of privilege, and a storage location of the certificate of privilege in the certificate of privilege table in association with each other.

14. A terminal according to claim 12, further comprising:

a policy table for storing a management policy to be used with the first terminal; and

management-policy setting means for setting a

management policy contained in the second certificate of privilege in the policy table when the operation-mode checking means determines that the second authentication request is not rejected.

15. A terminal comprising:

a status table for storing an operation mode of the terminal; and

sending means for sending a signal including beacon information having the operation mode of the terminal to a first terminal.

16. A terminal comprising:

a certificate of privilege table for storing a certificate of privilege indicating an access right of the terminal;

a status table for storing an operation mode of the terminal;

receiving means for receiving from a first terminal a signal including beacon information having an identifier that identifies the type of certificate of privilege and an operation mode of the first terminal; and

authentication request means for sending, when the operation mode of the terminal and the operation mode of the first terminal coincides with each other, an authentication

request to the first terminal by providing the certificate of privilege that matches the identifier contained in the signal received by the receiving means.

17. A terminal according to claim 16, wherein the identifier is a terminal identifier of a terminal that has issued the certificate of privilege.

18. A terminal according to claim 16, further comprising:

a certificate-of-privilege issuing terminal list table for storing a public key certificate of a terminal that has issued the certificate of privilege;

authentication-request receiving means for receiving a second authentication request from the first terminal in response to the authentication request sent from the authentication request means;

verification means for verifying a second certificate of privilege contained in the second authentication request received by the authentication-request receiving means by using a public key contained in the public key certificate stored in the certificate-of-privilege issuing terminal list table; and

operation-mode checking means for determining, after the second certificate of privilege is successfully verified

by the verification means, that the second authentication request is rejected when the operation mode of the first terminal is not permitted by an operable mode contained in the second certificate of privilege.

19. A terminal according to claim 18, wherein:

the identifier is a terminal identifier of the terminal that has issued the certificate of privilege; and

the certificate of privilege issuing terminal list table stores the terminal identifier of the terminal that has issued the certificate of privilege, the public key certificate of the terminal that has issued the certificate of privilege, and a storage location of the certificate of privilege in the certificate of privilege table in association with each other.

20. A terminal according to claim 18, further comprising:

a policy table for storing a management policy to be used with the first terminal; and

management-policy setting means for setting a management policy contained in the second certificate of privilege in the policy table when the operation mode checking means determines that the second authentication request is not rejected.

21. A terminal comprising:

a certificate of privilege table for storing a certificate of privilege indicating an access right of the terminal;

a status table for storing an operation mode of the terminal; and

sending means for sending a first terminal a signal including beacon information having an identifier that identifies the type of certificate of privilege of the certificate of privilege table and the operation mode of the terminal.

22. A terminal according to claim 21, wherein the identifier is a terminal identifier of a terminal that has issued the certificate of privilege.

23. A terminal comprising:

a certificate of privilege table for storing a plurality of certificates of privilege indicating an access right of the terminal;

a status table for storing an operation mode of the terminal;

selection means for providing an instruction to select one of the plurality of certificates of privilege stored in

the certificate of privilege table; and

sending means for sending a first terminal a signal including beacon information having an identifier that identifies the type of the certificate of privilege selected by the selection means and the operation mode of the terminal.

24. A terminal according to claim 23, wherein the identifier is a terminal identifier of a terminal that has issued the certificate of privilege.

25. A processing method for use in a terminal which includes a certificate of privilege table for storing a certificate of privilege indicating an access right of the terminal, and a status table for storing an operation mode of the terminal, said processing method comprising:

a step of receiving from a first terminal a signal including beacon information having an identifier that identifies the type of certificate of privilege and an operation mode of the first terminal; and

a step of sending, when the operation mode of the terminal and the operation mode of the first terminal coincides with each other, an authentication request to the first terminal by providing the certificate of privilege stored in the certificate of privilege table that matches

the identifier contained in the signal.

26.   A processing method for use in a terminal which includes a certificate of privilege table for storing a plurality of certificates of privilege indicating an access right of the terminal, and a status table for storing an operation mode of the terminal, said processing method comprising:

a step of providing an instruction to select one of the plurality of certificates of privilege stored in the certificate of privilege table; and

a step of sending a signal a first terminal including beacon information having an identifier that identifies the type of the selected certificate of privilege and the operation mode of the terminal.